



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,125	07/12/2006	Volkmar Schulz	PHUS040039US2	6961
38107	7590	10/17/2007	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			SHRIVASTAV, BRIJ B	
595 MINER ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CLEVELAND, OH 44143			2859	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/17/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/597,125	SCHULZ, VOLKMAR
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brij B. Shrivastav	2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on July 12, 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/12/06.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duerr et al (US 5,467,017).

3. As regards to claims 1 and 17 Duerr et al teach an MRI apparatus that includes a magnet system for generating a B_0 magnetic field in an examination zone between poles, and a method for reducing a stray field in an open MRI apparatus with a resonator adjacent a pole and an RF screen between the resonator and the pole, the apparatus including a first planar resonator disposed between one of the pole pieces and the examination zone, arranged substantially in a first common plane (figures 1-4, numerals 1,2,6,7 and 15), and having a first RF screen disposed between the first pole piece and the resonator (figure 1-3, numeral 6, 7).

As regards to claim 3, Duerr et al further teach a second planar resonator disposed between the remaining one of the pole pieces and the examination zone arranged substantially in the second common plane; a second RF screen disposed

between the second pole and the second resonator and a second gradient coil system disposed between the second RF screen and the remaining pole piece (figure 1, column 5)

4. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schulz et al (US 6,870,453).

5. As regards to claim 13, Schulz et al teach a resonator for an open MRI system, the resonator including a round central conductor, an annular ring surrounded and in the same plane as the central conductor; a plurality of rugs arranged radially between the central conductor and the annular ring and in the same plane as the central conductor and the annular ring; and a plurality of capacitors disposed in the ring (figures 1-3, 5-7, see summary, column 5-8).

6. As regards to claims 14-16, Shultz et al further teach the central conductor of the resonator is a plate having many capacitors (figures 2-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2, 4-12 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duerr et al (US 5,467,017 as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Schulz et al (US 6,870,453).

9. As regards to claims 2, 4-12 and 18-20, Duerr et al further do not specifically teach a gradient coil system, and circular conducting plates each one surrounded by a ring and radially arranged capacitors to the rings. Schulz et al teach a gradient coil system, and circular conducting plates each one surrounded by a ring and radially arranged capacitors to the rings (figures 1-7, column 5-8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt teaching of Schulz et al with the teaching of Duerr et al to further improve screening of eddy currents to improve image quality.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brij B. Shrivastav whose telephone number is 571-272-2250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

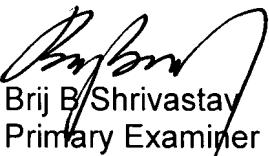
11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Application/Control Number: 10/597,125
Art Unit: 2859

Page 5

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 10, 2007



Brij B. Shrivastav
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2859
